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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO: USCINCSO FOR POLAD, Amembassies MANAGUA, SAN SALVADOR, TEGUCIGALPA, PANAMA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS JUL 23 1968

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

DATE: July 20, 68

SUBJECT : Weekly Internal Security Report: July 12 - 18, 1968

REF :

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 7 OCT 1997
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

1. The incidents that attracted the most attention were the explosions of three bombs in the capital on July 18. One went off on the Third Floor of the National Palace, a second in a corridor of the Department of Investigations of the National Police, and a third in the garden of the residence of the Brazilian Ambassador. Damage was slight in all cases, however, and the bombs were probably planted for their psychological impact rather than to cause any real damage. But even their psychological impact was slight. Minister of Government MANSILLA Pinto referred to them as "bombitas" (diminutive) and said they were "isolated cases without consequences for the stability of the regime".

[redacted]

2. The week also produced a somewhat larger than usual number of acts of political-looking violence in the countryside. Persons in authority were the objects on 2 occasions. On July 12 five armed persons, including two women arrived at the home of the local Chief of the National Police in Samayac, Department of Mazatenango, and told the guardian they wanted to kill the Chief's wife. The Chief and his wife were both out of the house so the intruders contented themselves by stealing a number of photographs and Q1,000 worth of jewels. Another attack against authorities occurred in San Martin Jilotepequez, Department of Chimaltenango. The Mayor, who was also Justice of the Peace, was kidnapped from his home, beaten to death, and left on the Pacific Highway. The motive is unknown in both cases. There were also several apparent kidnappings of non-prominent persons, an assassination, and a robbery which may have political antecedents.

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Drafted by: POL:WNewlin:cam:7/19/68

Contents and Classification Approved by: DCM:MVKrebs

Clearances:

[redacted]

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3. The security forces reported 2 successes: the death of Juan PEREZ Mendez who was identified as being a leader of "Los Tecolotes", a gang that had been terrorizing the area around Malacatan, San Marcos; and the discovery of one dead guerrilla and some arms and ammunition in an abandoned guerrilla camp in the Cristina Mountains, Department of Izabal, believed to have been used by guerrillas under Yon Sosa.

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